|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Search Patterns** | **Usage** |
| **.(dot)** | Match any single character |
| **a|z** | Match a or z |
| **$** | Match end of string |
| **^** | Match beginning of string |
| **\*** | Match preceding item 0 or more times |

For example, consider the following sentence: **the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog**.

Some of the patterns that can be applied to this sentence are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Command** | **Usage** |
| **a..** | matches azy |
| **b.|j.** | matches both br and ju |
| **..$** | matches og |
| **l.\*** | matches lazy dog |
| **l.\*y** | matches lazy |
| **the.\*** | matches the whole sentence |

**grep**is extensively used as a primary text searching tool. It scans files for specified patterns and can be used with regular expressions, as well as simple strings, as shown in the table:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Command** | **Usage** |
| **grep [pattern] <filename>** | Search for a pattern in a file and print all matching lines |
| **grep -v [pattern] <filename>** | Print all lines that do**not** match the pattern |
| **grep [0-9] <filename>** | Print the lines that contain the numbers **0** through **9** |
| **grep -C 3 [pattern] <filename>** | Print context of lines (specified number of lines above and below the pattern) for matching the pattern. Here, the number of lines is specified as 3 |